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narrowness of scope too often found in the writing of the modern Italian epigoni of the historical school. Nothing new in the way of theory is however developed, although the methodologist might be interested in the author's way of attacking the problems under discussion.

H. P. W.

France. By JOHN EDWARD COURTENAY BODLEY. New York and London: The Macmillan Company, 1898. 8vo. pp. xviii + 346 and vi + 504.

BODLEY'S *France* belongs in the same category with the political studies of Bryce and De Toqueville, but it differs radically from both. Warned, perhaps, by the example of De Toqueville, who made many prophecies that have failed of fulfillment, Bodley prophesies hardly at all. As compared with Bryce's account of American institutions, Bodley's work is lacking in completeness, for it does not cover the whole field of government. The most conspicuous omission is the judicial system, which recent events in France have made of so much interest. But in spite of its incompleteness, the work remains the most considerable study of France and its political institutions which we yet possess.

Mr. Bodley was formerly private secretary to Sir Charles Dilke, and is said to have had a considerable part in the preparation of Dilke's famous volumes on *Greater Britain*. His study of France is based upon a residence of seven years in the country, during which time he lived the life of a French citizen and acquired an intimate knowledge of the thought and feeling of the people of France, as well as of their leaders. The result is an appreciation of the strength and weakness of the nation as a whole, which could never be gained by any amount of study of its government.

Much of the second volume is occupied with the French parliamentary system. France has often experimented with representative institutions, but usually under disordered conditions. Under the third republic, however, in a time of peace and domestic tranquillity, the experiment has met with no better success than before. A part of the failure may be attributed to the lack of political aptitude in the French nation, but more of it must be attributed to the "fatal incompatibility" of parliamentary government and centralized administra-

tion. To the natural suggestion that the centralized system be abolished, Bodley replies that "if the Napoleonic fabric of centralization, which has survived all the vicissitudes of the century, were demolished, it would bring down with it every institution in France with havoc more ruinous than that of 1789, and to build another structure, another Napoleon would be needed." In another sentence, Bodley admirably characterizes the government of France when he says that "side by side with the parliamentary republic, of which every president has abdicated save one, who was murdered, and under which a minister who retains his portfolio for a year is a curiosity, subsists a series of stable official hierarchies, administrative, ecclesiastical, military, and judicial, which incarnate the spirit of the nation."

In three chapters devoted to the three words of the Revolutionary motto, "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," Bodley examines the attitude of modern France toward these principles. As to liberty, he finds that it is "a mere subject of the class room and the library." "Equality" is represented by the Legion of Honor, by nobiliary titles, and by the growing power of wealth as a molder of class distinctions. Of the third principle, Metternich said: "Fraternity, as it is practiced in France, has led me to the conclusion that if I had a brother I would call him my cousin." This requires considerable qualification, although the Jews of France might be tempted to accept it unreservedly.

France is pervaded with pessimism. Hitherto, when dissatisfied with the existing régime, she has solaced herself with the thought that one day it could be dispensed with. But now the republic, the object of her hopes, has proved a failure, and no one offers a remedy. There is nothing to take its place. Bodley, however, seems to regard the future with hope; for the strength of the nation lies in its people, and no fact is more impressive in France than the superiority of the people to their government.

CARL EVANS BOYD.

Reflections on the Formation and the Distribution of Riches. By TURGOT, 1770. (Economic Classics). New York: The Macmillan Company, 1898. 12mo. pp. xxii + 112.

THE editor of *Economic Classics* has again placed economic readers under obligation, by presenting a painstaking and excellent edition of Turgot's *Reflections*. The editor's task has been performed